

5-21-1963

Mr. George W. Healy, Jr. Editor
THE TIMES-PICAYUNE
New Orleans, La.-

Dear Editor:

In today's Times-Picayune, Section 2, page 3, under the heading "CUBAN COUNCIL ENVOY IS HEARD" appeared a few fragments of my speech delivered at the Gallier Hall at the meeting of the Cuban Colony in commemoration of our Independence Day, May 20th. of 1902.-

Unfortunately, the addition of one single word changed the whole meaning and feeling of my words. It appeared as follows:

"Cubans have the feeling they have been sold out, not (only) by the American people, but by the American Government".-

As you can see the addition of the word "only" by unintentional error, changed completely the feeling of said words.-

You should realized that none of us could never hurt the feeling of the American people for all their hospitality, humanitarian contributions and friendly understanding of our tragedy.-

My speech was as follows:

"I will deliver my speech in English, for the few American friends present here tonight, so there will be no doubt about the sentiments I want to express.-

On May the 20th. of 1902 a new republic was born. It was the Republic of Cuba. It was the glorious day of our Independence... won after many many years of struggle and sacrifice.-

Cubans and Americans were united during those days. Cubans and Americans fought a war together and were united in all endeavors... and at the end the final goal was accomplished. Cuba was free from the hand of the oppressor.

Since 1902 Cuba has made constant progress becoming one of the most advance nations of Latin-America. 60 years later, for reasons beyond our control, Cuba is again in the hands of a foreign power. It is my friends, in the hands of the worst tyranny ever known by mankind. It is in the hands of Russia, the main foe of the free world. It is in the hands of the communists, and only 90 miles away from the U.S. coasts.-

But now, in contrast with the 1898 conflict, we stand alone.

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cont.

Mr. Healy.
Cont. No. 2.-

That is why we have a feeling of frustration and sorrow. That is why we have the feeling that we have been sold out, not by the American people, but by the American Government. It is the feeling of the Cubans in exile today and the Cubans inside of Cuba.-

If we have to think in terms that the Cubans are going to be restrained from returning to Cuba to fight for freedom;

If we have to think in terms that we have to erase from history books the chapters of the glorious American revolution;

If we have to think in terms that the Monroe Doctrine, the Rio de Janeiro Treaty, the Caracas Declaration etc. etc. were only academic;

If we have to think in terms that the present American Government is using Cuba as a political pawn;

We, my friends, have to think in terms that the free world, obviously, does not have any more the will and the determination to fight for freedom.-

For this reason, now more than ever, we, the Cubans, regardless of our political affiliations, should be united.-

Unity in terms of sacrifice; unity in terms of mutual respect; unity in terms of close cooperation among ourselves; unity in terms of solidarity; unity in terms of a true faith in God and faith in victory.-

We know we still have a long way to go. We know it will cost a tremendous amount of lives and effort. We know we are down... but not out. But one thing we know for sure: the big battle is yet to come.-

None of you should have any doubts that Cuba, someday, somehow, will be liberated. Cuba will be free again. Cuba will be free by our own efforts and spirit of sacrifice and by the grace of God.-

To avoid any other misunderstanding I wish to request from you a complete transcription of this letter.-

Thanking you in advance I remain

Sincerely yours,

Frank Bantos.-

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